



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

September 23, 2005

News Release

8 “MUERTOS-TRECES” GANG MEMBERS APPREHENDED BY ICE *ICE Operation “Community Shield” targets gang members nationally*

DETROIT — Eight members of the Muertos-Treces street gang were arrested here Thursday by ICE special agents and the Detroit Police Department Gang Squad, announced U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz.

All eight men are illegal aliens from Mexico, and are currently in ICE custody. They include: Alejandro Daniel Rios-Sainz, 18; Sergio Alejandro Campos-Villa, 21; Diego Alfonso Hernandez-Camarena, 19; Tomas Gonzalez-Angel, 21; Felipe Maclovio Flores-Sanchez, 27; Mario Alberto Hernandez-Gonzalez, 20; Miguel Saucedo-Cuevas, 22; and Guillermo Gutierrez-Pasencia, 29.

When arrested, Gutierrez-Pasencia possessed a .357 revolver. ICE has presented his case to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Michigan, for criminal prosecution as an aggravated felon.

"These arrests clearly demonstrate the importance and benefit of ICE and local law enforcement working together to address the Nation's violent gang problem," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "Under the auspices of Operation Community Shield, ICE uses the full spectrum of its authorities to help local police make our cities and neighborhoods safer for everyone."

“Gangs will not find a safe haven in Detroit neighborhoods,” said Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings. “We will continue our partnerships with federal law enforcement to confront any threat to our communities.”

These arrests are part of Operation Community Shield, a nationwide ICE anti-gang initiative intended to disrupt, dismantle, and assist in the criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE.

ICE kicked off Operation Community Shield in February by specifically targeting MS-13, which is one of the most violent street gangs in the country. ICE expanded the initiative in May to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community Shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities. To date, ICE has arrested more than 1,300 gang members under this national initiative.

ICE uses its broad immigration authorities (both criminal and administrative) against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting gang-related narcotics smuggling, money laundering, and in seeking the forfeiture of illegally derived assets.

Operation Community Shield involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. ICE uses intelligence on gang organizations and leadership provided by state and local authorities. This information is then used whenever possible to arrest, prosecute, and/or deport individual gang members.

To report suspicious activity, members of the public are encouraged to call the ICE hotline at: 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.